

**Testimony
of
UIL HOLDINGS CORPORATION
United Illuminating
Before
The ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Regarding
RAISED HOUSE BILL 7251
AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN CLASS I
GENERATION PROJECTS AND THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INVESTMENT
PROGRAM AND REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE VALUE OF SOLAR

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT
March 5, 2019**

Good morning Senators Needleman, Formica and Fonfara, Representatives Arconti, Ferraro and Allie-Brennan and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Patrick McDonnell and I am the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for UIL Holdings Corporation (UIL), the parent company for United Illuminating, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company and Connecticut Natural Gas, and wholly-owned subsidiaries of Avangrid, Inc.

I thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on Raised House Bill 7251, **AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN CLASS I GENERATION PROJECTS AND THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE VALUE OF SOLAR.** We support House Bill 7251 with some modification because it will allow for a smooth transition for the renewable energy community as we transition our renewable energy programs.

As I have mentioned before, I was personally involved with the Lamont Administrations energy transition team that ultimately crafted the New Green Deal for Connecticut. The zero carbon goals that the new Governor has advanced is an important agenda, but we must work towards that goal through measured, well considered and deliberate strategies. The revisions to our renewable energy incentives, passed last year in PA 18-50, are one example of a deliberate strategy. While these changes are critical adjustments to the incentive policies that are important to transition renewable energy from a subsidy based offering to one that competes in the competitive energy, there needs to be a smooth transition to accomplish

these goals. This Bill would increase the quantity of the current renewable energy offerings and allow for more time which will be critical for a smooth transition.

Although more time is important, this bill would raise the limit for the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP) an additional 100 MWs. At the current rate of uptake for the RSIP program, a 100 MW increase would extend the program by approximately two years. We would recommend a 50 MW increase to allow for one additional year.

The bill also calls DEEP to contract with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) to conduct a value of solar study. We would suggest that DEEP have the latitude to procure an independent entity to conduct the study to remove any possibility of bias impacting the results. In this way DEEP to contract with CASE or any other firm that could provide an independent assessment. The results of this study will be important to inform the implementation of PA 18-50, and must strike a balance between the levels of incentives and the impact on all ratepayers.

With these changes, we support HB 7251 and the successful transition to a clean energy future that it will help bring about. Thanks you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You may also contact AL Carbone, Manager of Avangrid/UIL State Government Relations at (203) 671-4421.